

University Research Council Minutes
Wednesday, March 21, 2018
2:00 – 4:30 pm
JHE A114

In attendance:

Rob Baker, Karen Mossman, Peter Mascher, Nick Markettos, Khaled Hassanein, John Preston, Gianni Parise, Sean Corner, James Gillett, Vivian Lewis, Gay Yuyitung, Tracy Arabski, Ranil Sonnadara, Lori Dillon, Danelle D’Alvise, Popi Bistas (Minutes)

Regrets: Jonathan Bramson, Kathy Charters

Rob Baker welcomed Tracy Arabski, Director of Health Research Services, to the University Research Council.

1.. **Minutes of University Research Council Meeting of December 5, 2017**

Approved.

2. **Report by VP Research**

- The **Strategic Research Plan (SRP)** was submitted to the University Planning Committee Meeting today and approved; will be directed to the Senate Committee in April for further approval. Once the document is approved by the appropriate university governing bodies, it will be posted on the web, with graphics, etc. An SRP budget will be developed, and a working group for budget request will be formed. The budget will be presented to the Budget Committee.
- **McMaster Nuclear Reactor:** Travelled to Ottawa and had various government meetings for funding. The goal is to make the Reactor a 24/7 operation. Met with the ADM, Natural Resources Canada, before the budget release. Nothing specific set for MNR and no funding for now. Will contact the Minister Duncan (Science) and Minister Bains (Innovation, Science and Economic Development) for lobbying.
- **BEAM** officially opened on March 7. Planning a Supervisory Board meeting in June.
- **MIP Warehouse:** In negotiations with other companies to move in. McMaster Manufacturing Research Institute (MMRI) to be moved there – goes well with the Advanced Manufacturing Consortium (AMC).
- The new **Federal Budget** is good for research. The Fundamental Scientific Review was good. Large increases; combining programs with TriCouncil. Will not see funding until later; impact later.
- **New IP Education** – small and medium enterprises
- **Global Water Futures (GWF)** – we are members. Set aside \$2M for Indigenous programs (Water); workshop in April (Rob Baker and Dawn Martin-Hill); Rob will provide update later.
- Complete overhaul of **Compute Canada**. Will hear more.

- **McMaster Indigenous Research Institute (MIRI) Director Search;** currently reviewing applications.
- **Brighter World Research Initiative:** Campaign dedicated to research. Met with US firm - GG&A. The firm will be interviewing the Deans and come back with proposal. Will be a few years before we see funding.

3. **Big Tobacco Funded Research**

- Request received by companies about research on tobacco. Internal inquiry as to whether a policy exists for this. Rob Baker spoke to the Dean, FHS . Few schools in the US have blocked it. Discussed with the President and Provost. Require policy – set up working group to develop this. Rob will be in contact.
- A URC member mentioned that an expression of interest was received from a cannabis company.
- A URC member questioned if it limits academic freedom. Can we say “can we endorse it”? Tobacco companies hired CRO’s (research companies) to contact academic institutions.
- Rob to get back to PVP on this; “slippery slope” – academic freedom

4. **Phil Hockberger Visit (Karen Mossman)**

Planned for April 17.

Phil Hockberger had a similar position as Associate VP Research at Northwestern University. For 7 years, he worked on Core facilities; how they’re funded and sustained. Western University also interested.

Three group sessions to be set up:

- a) Rationale on policy and how to do assessments
- b) Oversight
- c) Best Practices (Admin)

Hope ADRs can attend. A URC member asked if BEAM could be a core facility, and the answer was yes; small or large core facilities, or sharing with other institutions. For any large equipment, could go to a facility – strategic placement. Not for cost recovery, but for making its use most effective for research. Look at QReserve; data bank of what we have. PI is the ultimate authority. Hospitals and CAF? Karen Mossman asked if the ADRs have anyone in particular to attend the above sessions, to advise her accordingly.

5. **Reports from the VPR Team**

Gay Yuyitung:

Times Higher Education rankings are asking business consulting revenue. A URC Member commented that this requires examination; researchers overhead to university; form is confidential – CPM - Engineering has the form online. The ADR of Engineering to share with Gay. Looking at software. Use JP’s.

- **Ranil Sonnadara**
 - New online Ethics System out in a few weeks. Email notice out soon.

6. **Faculty Updates (Associate Deans, Research)**

- **Khaled Hassanein (Business)**
 - Had meeting with stakeholders at university on Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- **John Preston (Engineering)**
 - City of Hamilton put in bid for Hamilton to become Most Intelligent City. Judge coming in for 2 hours on April 5. Seeing City lab and connection to MIP after. David Harris Smith and Jim Dunn talking; Ravi Selvaganapathy – Smart Home; Laurel Trainor – LiveLab; Paul McNicholas to talk. Digital literacy at Library; showcase tables
 - Announcement yesterday for 5G Network. Talked with Dr. Philippa King, Senior Manager, Digital Economy Technologies, Ontario Centres of Excellence. Funding to few companies and SME's. Workshop to be hosted with SMEs and big companies for networking; Engineering/Business/Health

RB noted that there will be a Manufacturing Forum at McMaster and Open House in May; Jayson Myers made a presentation.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10 pm